

² Harbor Dredging on Schedule for August

By SUSANNA SHOHAM

"We're off and running," said Harbormaster Donald Beers about the Duxbury harbor dredging project, which he expects to begin as scheduled around Aug. 1.

Last Friday, the Army Corp of Engineers, the federal agency overseeing the dredging, approved the contract of low bidder Weeks Marine of New Jersey and completed a full investigation of the contractor's equipment, references and insurance, said Beers. Weeks' bid was \$1.87 million.

Now with the official "notice to proceed" Weeks Marine should be pulling into the mouth of Duxbury Harbor within the next few weeks, beginning the dredging at buoy #12. As the equipment is large – the scows used to hold the dredged matter are 190 ft by 40 ft and the crane is 160 ft wide – and draws 16 ft of water, the contractor will have to dredge its way into the anchorage, probably doing most of the work at high tide, because at low tide there is only zero to 4 ft of water.

The area was last dredged 20 years ago and is now "almost three-quarters filled with silt," Beers said. The mile long entrance channel will be dredged to make it 100 feet wide and at least 8 feet deep at low tide. The anchorage will be dredged to a low tide depth of 8 feet or more.

Beers expects more than 250,000 cubic yards of dredged material to be taken from Duxbury Harbor to a dump site off Wellfleet in Cape Cod Bay. Twenty years ago, 130,000 cubic yards were taken from this area, he said.

As for the dredging's effect on boaters, Beers said that eventually the boat yards will have to start removing boats and moorings, but that "as they (the dredgers) move forward, we'll put in the moorings behind them." Also, since the project will take 3 months and the dredging equipment will be slowly working its way toward the anchorage, many boats will have already been removed for the fall. 160 boats are inside the area which falls under the federal dredging project and approximately 400 vessels are in the areas of the town pier, Duxbury Yacht Club, and Bayside Marine, which, with Batelle Laboratories, will pay extra to have their areas dredged.

When asked if the dredging will change the harbor in terms of the types of boats that will be able to enter it, Beers said emphatically "You bet!"

"It will have a traumatic, positive effect" on the harbor, Beers said, since larger and deeper draft vessels will be able to enter after the dredging takes place.

The total cost for the dredging project is estimated by the Army Corp of Engineers to be \$2.343 million.